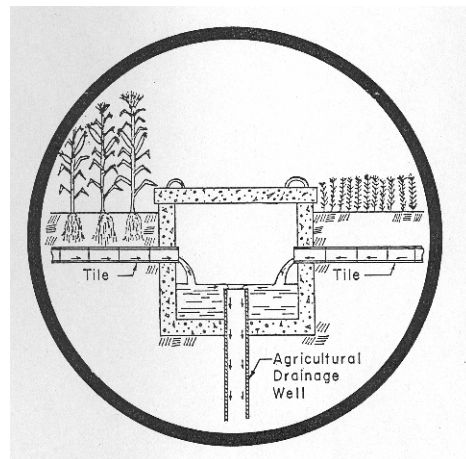


Agricultural Drainage Well Closure Assistance Fund

Agricultural drainage wells (ADWs) were developed in the early to mid 1900's and discharge cropland tile drainage water to underground aquifers. The fund was established in 1997 to protect drinking water aquifers by cost-sharing with landowners to close agricultural drainage wells and develop alternative drainage outlets to surface streams or install alternative management practices. Projects are typically constructed through drainage districts, although some projects are undertaken by individual landowners. Some of the remaining wells to be closed are located in karst areas with shallow limestone. Iowa State University recently finished a study to develop alternatives with ADWs in these areas that also benefit the environment.



- 296 registered agricultural drainage wells (ADWs) in Iowa
- 97 ADWs closed by landowners, Watershed Improvement Review Board funding, or determined by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to not be ADWs or to be non-functioning
- 134 ADWs closed to date using \$10.09 million of assistance funds
- 31 ADWs closures are in planning and design with obligated funds but need an additional \$3.2 million for full cost-share
- 34 ADWs remain in continued use with DNR

permits with a total estimated cost of \$5.07 million

to close 18 ADWs

- FY13 appropriation request = \$1,250,000

Fund Status

FY12 Appropriation	\$ 0
Balance 6/30/11 Brought Forward	\$4,758,294
Interest to Date	\$ 4,790
Expenditures to Date	\$ 666,637
Obligated/Encumbered	\$4,096,447
Unobligated	\$ 0

For more information, contact:

Todd Coffelt, Chief, Water Resources Bureau
Division of Soil Conservation
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
515-281-6147
Todd.Coffelt@iowaagriculture.gov

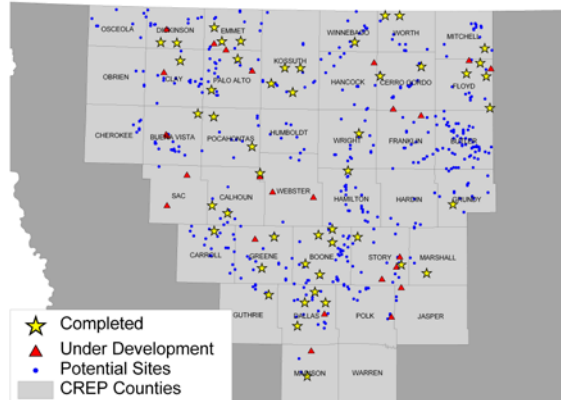
Jim Gillespie, Director
Division of Soil Conservation
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
515-281-7043
Jim.Gillespie@iowaagriculture.gov

Iowa Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

The Iowa Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) was initiated in 2000 and is a joint effort of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and the USDA Farm Service Agency to protect Iowa drinking water and reduce hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico. It is a highly targeted water quality program focusing on the reduction of nitrate loads to surface waters through the restoration of strategically located and designed wetlands that intercept tile-drainage water from upper-lying cropland.

- Research and monitoring by Iowa State University has shown that CREP wetlands remove 40-90% of the nitrate in tile-drainage water
- Wetlands restored to date (54) and those currently being designed (18) are estimated to remove over 53,600 tons of nitrogen over design life—these wetlands will provide water quality protection for 86,100 acres of land
- Hundreds of potential sites exist for landowner consideration
- Average lifetime nitrogen removal costs: \$0.23/lb.
- Currently there is a growing waiting list of applicants that have requested state funding.
- State funds are matched with Federal funds
- FY13 appropriation request = \$1,000,000

Current Iowa CREP - Nitrate Removal Wetlands



Fund Status

FY12 appropriation	\$1,000,000
Balance 6/30/11 Brought Forward	\$5,814,862
Expenditures to Date	\$1,337,705
Outside Contributions	\$ 785,133
Obligated/Encumbered	\$6,262,290
Unobligated	\$ 0

For more information, contact:

Todd Coffelt, Chief, Water Resources Bureau
Division of Soil Conservation
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
515-281-6147
Todd.Coffelt@iowaagriculture.gov

Jim Gillespie, Director
Division of Soil Conservation
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
515-281-7043
Jim.Gillespie@iowaagriculture.gov

District Initiatives/Buffer Initiative

The District Initiatives/Buffer Initiative (Conservation Reserve Program-CRP) was established in 2000 as a part of the Iowa Water Quality Initiative. Program initiatives are delivered through local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to leverage dollars for federal conservation programs, increasing Iowa's overall participation in both state and federal programs. Locally-led initiatives prioritize and target sensitive areas, by providing funds and resources to protect our soil and water resources.



- Iowa leads the nation in the USDA Continuous CRP with 602,976 acres enrolled
- 202 acres were enrolled in Iowa buffers protecting Iowa's lakes, rivers and streams
- 231 acres of trees were planted on CRP land to keep it in permanent cover
- 732 acres of grazing were planned on CRP land in contracts expiring in 2011 & 2012, providing permanent cover rather than intensive cropping
- SWCDs receive funds to provide technical assistance to enroll CRP and install Federal Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) practices
- SWCDs work one-on-one with landowners and operators
- Under the EQIP program, landowners have invested over \$9,000,000 along with over \$22,000,000 from federal funds
- FY13 appropriation request = \$3,000,000

Fund Status

FY12 Appropriation	\$ 1,000,000
Balance 6/30/11 Brought Forward	\$ 1,072,559
Expenditures to Date	\$ 264,293
Refunds & Reimbursements	\$ 5,905
Obligated/Encumbered	\$ 1,814,170
Unobligated	\$ 0

For further information, contact:

Mike Franklin, Acting Chief, Field Services Bureau
Division of Soil Conservation
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
515-281-6145
Mike.Franklin@iowaagriculture.gov

Jim Gillespie, Director
Division of Soil Conservation
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
515-281-7043
Jim.Gillespie@iowaagriculture.gov

Integrated Farm & Livestock Management Demonstration Program

The Integrated Farm and Livestock Management demonstration program was initiated in 2000 as part of the Iowa Water Quality Initiative to demonstrate the adaptability and effectiveness of conservation systems with farming operations. New and emerging technologies are demonstrated on private farmland to refine management input to reduce erosion and soil loss, enhance soil quality, increase infiltration, reduce runoff and lessen nutrient and sediment loading to Iowa's water bodies. Resources and infrastructure are leveraged to provide extensive information delivery and exchange for other important issues such as row crop residue harvest for biofuels, cover crops and perennial living mulch, and nutrient transport from cropped landscapes.

- Iowa Learning Farms, coordinated by Iowa State University, is building a "Culture of Conservation" through a partnership of farmers, agencies, conservation groups, agribusiness, the research community, and the public that supports continuing change for improved water and soil quality in Iowa and the nation.



resources to sustain our quality of life

- Improved tillage and residue management field demonstrations with approximately 60 cooperators and conservationists in Iowa's five major soil associations allowed farmers to evaluate agronomic and economic information and share local wisdom
- A strong statewide awareness campaign utilizing a farmer-to-farmer, Iowan-to-Iowan grassroots approach included nearly 100 public events across Iowa in 2011
- Education and outreach to thousands of individuals strengthened society's commitment to the conservation of natural

- Iowa Soybean Association's agriculture and environment performance program has been allocated \$370,000 by legislative earmark.
- Funds leveraged with federal grants and other sources brings millions of additional dollars to Iowa.
- FY13 appropriation request = \$625,000

Fund Status

FY12 Appropriation	\$ 625,000
Balance 6/30/11 Brought Forward	\$ 226,597
Expenditures to Date	\$ 632,812
Outside Contribution	\$ 49,207
Obligated/Encumbered	\$ 267,992
Unobligated	\$ 0

For more information, contact:

Todd Coffelt, Chief, Water Resource Bureau
Division of Soil Conservation
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
515-281-6147
Todd.Coffelt@iowaagriculture.gov

Jim Gillespie, Director
Division of Soil Conservation
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
515-281-7043
Jim.Gillespie@iowaagriculture.gov

Iowa Conservation Cost Share Program

Iowa's Conservation Cost Share program was established in 1973 to protect the soil and water resources of the state from erosion and sediment damage. The program encourages the adoption of farm management and agricultural practices that are consistent with the capability of the land to sustain agriculture while preserving the state's natural resources. Technical assistance is provided by IDALS-DSC and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and practices are designed to NRCS technical standards. Applicants are required to enter into maintenance agreements to ensure long-term success and performance. Funds are administered locally by Iowa's 100 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs).



- Soil and water conservation practices:
 - enhance soil quality and improve water infiltration
 - reduce erosion, soil loss and runoff
 - reduce water impairments from sediment and nutrients
 - reduce storm water impact on private property and infrastructure
- In FY11, Cost Share was not funded with an Environmental First Appropriation; it was funded with I-JOBS funding, so this report doesn't account for those expenditures
- From July 1 to December 31, 2011, IDALS processed landowner payments for 415 soil and water conservation practices
- 5,986 acres were benefited with a soil loss reduction of 6,572 tons/year
- Landowners invest 50-75% of their own money on these practices
- The investment of cost-share funds and those of private landowners are reinvested in Iowa's local economies benefiting the communities
- In October 2011, 64 SWCDs requested \$19,631,716 in supplemental funds with only \$2,638,019 available, leaving \$16,993,697 of unmet demand and lost opportunities to improve our soil and water resources
- FY13 appropriation request = \$8,300,000

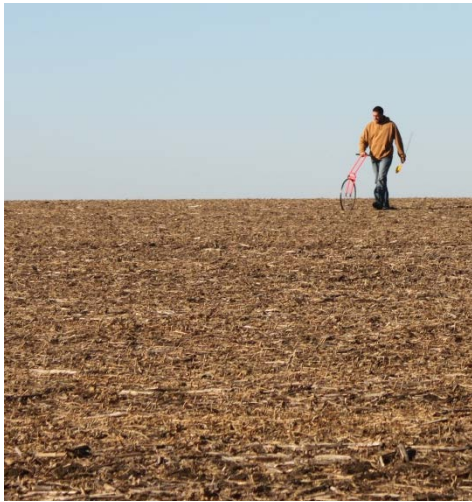
Fund Status	FY12 Appropriation	\$6,300,000
	Balance 6/30/11 Brought Forward	\$3,145,885
	Expenditures to Date	\$2,305,883
	Refunds & Reimbursements	\$ 4,973
	Obligated/Encumbered	\$7,144,975
	Unobligated	\$ 0

For further information, contact:

Mike Franklin, Acting Chief, Field Services Bureau
 Division of Soil Conservation
 Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
 515-281-6145
Mike.Franklin@iowaagriculture.gov

Jim Gillespie, Director
 Division of Soil Conservation
 Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
 515-281-7043
Jim.Gillespie@iowaagriculture.gov

Soil and Water Conservation Administration



There is a need to improve soil quality, maintain productivity, enhance water quality, manage nutrient properly, and provide flood protection. To do so and ensure program dollars are spent effectively; we need to provide the best administrative and technical assistance possible for the Iowa Financial Incentives Program, Resource Enhancement and Protection program, Watershed Protection Fund, Water Protection Fund projects and State Revolving Fund Program. Staff also assist with implementing projects and practices funded by the federal government, i.e. Environmental Quality Incentive Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Wetland Reserve Program, Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, and others in 100 SWCDs and all counties.

Currently there are 35 (21 secretaries and 14 technicians) vacant positions that communicate and provide assistance to implement conservation practices need to be filled so that all 100 offices will be fully functional.

- Staff will assist landowners in applying over \$13,177,000 in state program funded program funds which will leverage \$13,177,000
- Staff will help USDA/NRCS apply over \$25,000,000 federally funded conservation practices that will leverage \$25,000,000
- Conservation projects have brought over \$113,000,000 to local communities across Iowa that support local contractors, supply businesses and other local businesses and have created local jobs that allow that money to turn over multiple times in those local communities
- Positions will assist landowners and operators with conservation practice on about 2,000,000 acres in Iowa this year
- \$859,376 will allow the reinstatement of 9 Secretary 2, and 6 Soil Conservation Technicians.
- FY13 appropriation request = \$2,859,376

Fund Status	FY12 Appropriation	\$ 2,000,000
	Balance 6/30/11 Brought Forward	\$ 0
	Expenditures to Date	\$ 2,000,000
	Obligated/Encumbered	\$ 0
	Unobligated	\$ 0

For more information, contact:

Mike Franklin, Acting Chief, Field Services Bureau
Division of Soil Conservation
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
515-281-6145
Mike.Franklin@iowaagriculture.gov

Jim Gillespie, Director
Division of Soil Conservation
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
515-281-7043
Jim.Gillespie@iowaagriculture.gov

Watershed Protection Fund

The Watershed Protection Fund was initiated in 2000 as part of the broader Iowa Water Quality Initiative. Watershed development funds are available to Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) for that first important step of identifying problems in the watershed and creating a sound plan for improvement. Implementation of watershed protection projects brings together the community, both rural and urban, to target resources to reduce soil erosion, protect water quality, provide flood reduction, and protect natural resources. IDALS-DSC, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service work together in the support of these projects in order to achieve the maximum watershed improvements and water quality benefits with the state and federal program funds available to each agency.



- 39 watershed projects are underway in 46 SWCDs
- State funds are cost-shared at rates up to 75% with applicants assuming 25% of the cost
- 140 watershed project claims were reimbursed totaling \$1,011,337.30 and leveraging \$1,066,649.00 from other sources
- 1,914 acres were protected with a soil loss reduction of 6,944 tons/year
- Sediment delivery to the state's water bodies was reduced by 10,368 tons/year
- Projects have leveraged state funds with approximately \$2,700,000 of DNR Section 319 federal program funds
- FY13 appropriation request = \$1,900,000

Fund Status

FY12 Appropriation	\$ 900,000
Balance 6/30/11 Brought Forward	\$2,858,738
Refunds & Reimbursements	\$ 1,967
Expenditures to Date	\$ 1,041,309
Obligated/Encumbered	\$ 2,719,396
Unobligated	\$ 0

For more information, contact:

Mike Franklin, Acting Chief, Field Services Bureau
Division of Soil Conservation
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
515-281-6145
Mike.Franklin@iowaagriculture.gov

Jim Gillespie, Director
Division of Soil Conservation
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
515-281-7043
Jim.Gillespie@iowaagriculture.gov

Iowa Watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB) Administration

The Iowa Watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB) was initiated in 2005. This Board is responsible for awarding grants to water quality improvement flood prevention projects. The WIRB is comprised of representatives from agriculture, drinking water and wastewater utilities, environmental organizations, agribusiness, the conservation community along with two state senators and two state representatives.

Administrative support to the Board is provided by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship—Division of Soil Conservation.

- The Board oversees 52 active projects lasting up to five years
- These 52 projects have been awarded \$15,486,266.76 from the WIRB and have spent \$4,627,062.99
- 43 projects are completed and annually reduce sedimentation 55,000 tons, reduced phosphorus 97,000 pounds and treat 8.5 million gallons of urban stormwater before it reaches a stream
- The funded projects are accountable to the WIRB through progress reports submitted biannually that summarize activities completed and provide details of expenditures. Annual project reports are also included with the WIRB annual report to the Legislature and the Governor
- The WIRB maintains a website at: <http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/IWIRB.asp>
- For FY2012, WIRB Administration was funded from the state cost-share fund



Fund Status

FY12 appropriation	\$	0
Balance 6/30/11 Brought Forward	\$	0
Expenditures to Date	\$	50,000
Obligated/Encumbered	\$	0
Unobligated	\$	0

For more information contact:

Todd Coffelt, Chief, Water Resources Bureau
 Division of Soil Conservation
 Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
 515-281-6147
Todd.Coffelt@iowaagriculture.gov

Jim Gillespie, Director
 Division of Soil Conservation
 Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
 515-281-7043
Jim.Gillespie@iowaagriculture.gov